

## Mississippi flag flies in Idaho

The Mississippi flag flew over Cascade, Idaho, as 37 workers from Alcorn Association built a church and conducted a Vacation Bible School June 26-30. Represented in the group of workers were members of Wheeler Grove, Tate Street, First, Corinth, and Oakland churches. In five days the church had been framed, sheeting and felt paper put on the roof, siding over all the outside, and the electrical conduit boxes installed.

The group joined with the congregation in a praise and prayer service in the new building on Friday evening. At this service the Mississippi flag which had flown over the site was signed by each visiting worker and presented to the church.

## Vines commends visitors to Las Vegas for SBC

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Jerry Vines, Southern Baptist Convention president, has commended messengers to the 1989 annual meeting for the mission effort conducted in Las Vegas, Nev.

"The Lord used you to accomplish our purpose far beyond our hopes and aspirations," said Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Jacksonville, Fla.

Vines, who was re-elected to a second one-year term as president of the 14.8-million-member denomination at the 1989 annual meeting, said, "Only heaven will reveal how many more (people) came to Christ in lifestyle evangelistic endeavor on the part of messengers. To God be the glory, great things he hath done," Vines wrote.

Under sponsorship of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, the Nevada Baptist Convention and the Southern Nevada Baptist Association, the week preceeding the annual meeting featured simultaneous "Here's Hope" revivals.

On the Saturday preceeding the convention, more than 2,000 Southern Baptists from 38 states and the District of Columbia fanned out across Las Vegas, visiting 130,000 homes.

Across the state, the evangelistic thrust resulted in 894 first-time professions of faith, including 471 in Las Vegas. It produced 5,000 prospects for church membership in Las Vegas and 412 other decisions, officials reported.

Vines, who has emphasized personal soul-winning as a theme of the first one-year term as president, also told Baptist Press:

"I am going to place a strong emphasis this coming year on building great soul-winning churches. I would encourage every pastor and layperson

to join me in a renewed effort to build our local churches.

"As I understand it, New Testament evangelism has a two-fold focus: first, to win people to faith in Christ; second, to baptize them into the fellowship of a local church and help them grow into the likeness of Jesus Christ. This will be my emphasis in the coming year.

## New Prospect sets Centennial

New Prospect Church, Brookhaven, celebrates its Centennial and homecoming on Aug. 6.

Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m. with worship at 11. Dinner will be served at noon with afternoon services at 1:30.

Former pastors Jerry Jackson, Ken Kirk, Jewell Kyzar, and James Watts will participate in the worship service. Music director Jerry Smith will conduct the music.

Talmadge Smith, director of missions, will present a certificate of recognition from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. "The History of New Prospect Baptist Church" is being printed and will be available for distribution during the day. A special presentation of memories will be made.

In the afternoon service, ordained ministers from New Prospect, James Alfred Case, Lynwood Porter, and Steve Wooten, will participate along with the pastor Randal Walker.

A brief service will be held at the cemetery along with deposit of a time capsule to be opened in 50 years. An offering will be taken for the cemetery's upkeep.

# The Baptist Record

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## Visit begets visit between Soviets and Californians

By Mark A. Wyatt

FRESNO, Calif. (BP) — Soviet Baptists, pleased with a visit by a delegation of California Southern Baptists, are calling for an annual exchange of delegations to promote understanding and mutual encouragement.

In mid-May, leaders of the California Southern Baptist Convention made a 15-day tour of churches in the Ukraine. In November, Ukrainian Baptists will visit California. The visits were the first phase of a relationship between the two groups which has been in planning since 1984.

In addition to the visits, the new partnership may feature the California Baptists providing assistance to the Soviets in the form of literature, teaching aids and office equipment.

The idea for the relationship between the state convention and the Soviets was suggested in 1984 but did not come into being until 1989, when circumstances in the Soviet Union favored such an exchange.

"The fact that they want a continuing relationship shows we have been accepted," said John Jackson, convention president and pastor in Anaheim.

The visit "broke down some barriers . . . stereotype barriers. It went both ways," Jackson said, adding the visit also revealed the Ukrainians have a desire to reach their land for Christ, "get the word of God to the people, and to train and educate their children."

Rob Zinn, chairman of the convention's executive board and pastor in San Bernardino, said the emerging bond is "investing in people so that children can learn the Bible and people can be brought to Christ."

"The best way we can help that happen is to teach the children. The door has opened up. We need to go through. It is not an if; it's a must."

Jackson, Zinn, and three other California Southern Baptist leaders, accompanied by their wives, visited more than a dozen churches in cities and villages across the Ukraine. Others taking part included C.B. Hogue, CSBC executive director; Anthony Ahaev, pastor of Slavic Evangelic Baptist Church, Hollywood; and Mark Wyatt, CSBC public relations director.

During the visit, the Californians repeatedly heard requests for training and study materials, especially children's literature. They were told Soviet law forbids churches to provide religious instruction to children, although many did so despite frequent fines and other penalties.

The law also prohibits publication of "religious propaganda" such as Bible study materials, they were told.

Vasily Logvinenko, president of the All Union Council of Evangelical

Christians-Baptists, who greeted the Californians in Moscow, said Soviet Baptists are cautiously optimistic about prospects for greater religious liberty.

He said Soviet Baptists have asked the government to change the law to allow freedom of conscience in religious matters, but until changes come, the churches are trying to make the most of the new openness. "We don't know how long it will last," Logvinenko said.

He added: "The Lord has given us wide open doors for the gospel. It is being carried freely in our country. We freely have studies with children but there is a great demand for children's literature."

In Kiev, Ukrainian Baptist Superintendent Jakiv Doukhonchenko credited last year's observance of 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia with boosting interest in religion among Soviet citizens. "It has revived a hunger for Christianity," Doukhonchenko said. "People come daily asking for New Testaments and Bibles. These opportunities make us happy and we thank God."

Doukhonchenko displayed a newly published Ukrainian hymnal, one of 20,000 printed in Germany and now being distributed in the Soviet Union.

By October, he said, a quarter million New Testaments in modern Ukrainian will be ready for distribution. "We have received a lot of literature, but we still have a lot of need," Doukhonchenko said.

Soviet Baptists also said they need office equipment, including typewriters, copiers, and computers, and software.

Jackson, a trustee of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said efforts are underway to get assistance for the Soviet Baptists, "not only in California, but through the Foreign Mission Board and the (Southern Baptist) Sunday School Board."

Zinn said he will make specific recommendations to the California convention's executive board after talking with Doukhonchenko when the Ukrainian Baptist leader visits California for medical treatment this summer.

The San Bernardino pastor said Californians have a unique opportunity, one he views as genuine missions. "They (Soviet Baptists) call it a fraternal relationship," Zinn said.

"We'll call it missions because it's starting new work, spreading the gospel. I see it as an opportunity to help fellow Baptists."

Wyatt writes for California Baptists.

## Devotional

### What's in a name?

By Larry Cox  
II Timothy 2:19

My grandfather was the 15th child born into his family, and he always told us that his parents ran out of names, so they only gave him one name.

Often someone would ask him his name and he would tell them, "Howard Cox." Then they would ask him to state his whole name, and he would reply, "just Howard Cox," and that's exactly how the clerk or official would record his name.

When I was a child my grandfather taught me that the most important thing about a person's name is the character that is associated with that name.

Today, years after his death, when the name Howard Cox is mentioned, we are reminded of a kind, soft spoken, gentle man who loved the name of Jesus Christ above all others.

Sitting and chatting or walking in the woods with my grandfather, I learned something as a boy that helped me through those value-forming adolescent years and something that continues to mold my life today: a person who claims the name of Christ in his life as a Christian cannot be involved in questionable activities.

There is much discussion in our lives today about ethical and moral issues. Temptations abound for youth and adults. We are masterful at convincing our conscience that something we want to do is acceptable.

To my grandfather, decisions were easy when you based them on the scripture: Let everybody who names the name of the Lord stay away from anything that is questionable.

Cox is assistant to the president, Mississippi College.



Cox

# Youth Night is Aug. 4 in Jackson



# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The Kelly years

In whatever way it needs to be done, the Baptist Record is ready to pay tribute to Earl Kelly as he comes to the end of his tenure as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

One would be hard-pressed to find a more hard working representative of the denomination. And he represented the denomination with everything he had.

He was constantly on the go throughout the state, or there was someone from somewhere in the state in his office. Many of those who were there for conferences were those who had responsibilities in the state convention framework, but the door was open to all.

And it was a literal open door. The only time it was closed was when there was a conference going on inside.

The growth experienced in the state was astounding. During his first full year, which was 1974, the budget for the state convention was \$5.6 million. For 1989, which is the year in which he is completing his service, the budget for the state convention is \$20.1 million. In 1974 the Cooperative Program percentage going outside the state was 30 percent. Today it is 37.5 percent.

In 1974 there were 1,881 churches in Mississippi. This year there are 2,002. A great deal of the growth that has been noted has come from the emphasis that he introduced immediately after taking office. It was called The Decade of Advance. It certainly

was that as that decade ended in 1985.

And surely a crowning achievement of his tenure was the restoration of Gulfshore, a beautiful and functional training and inspirational facility on Bay St. Louis.

Add to that the establishing of Central Hills Baptist Retreat, and it makes quite a contribution.

His tenure spanned some years of anxiety. During these years it became apparent that Clarke College could not survive alone, and it became a part of Mississippi College. The envisioned merger never came to full fruition, however, and Clarke is still in a tenuous condition.

In the last year or so, circumstances began to come to light at William Carey College which are causing anxiety at the present moment. Kelly has exhibited a strong hand of leadership in both situations.

And several years earlier, in an effort to ward off just such conditions, Kelly initiated what became known as Mississippi Mission, the effort to have a \$40 million endowment campaign for the colleges and the Children's Village. The effort came to a more than successful conclusion last year, the largest fund-raising campaign in the history of the state.

As turmoil gripped the Southern Baptist Convention 10 years ago, Kelly's strong hand kept Mississippi Baptists moving straight ahead on a path of denominational health and strength.

Surely there is no way to find the space to present an adequate tribute

to Kelly as he comes to the end of this phase of his ministry. Not to be overlooked was the partnership arrangement with Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina that resulted in thousands of professions of faith. During those years I made three trips to that land and came to know some of the finest Baptists I have found. As might be expected, I got closest to one church, the Bella Vista Church in Godoy Cruz, a suburb of Mendoza. It was hard to leave those folks when time came to go.

One interesting experience was to visit the southernmost city in the world, Ushuaia, Argentina, located in the island area at the tip of the nation — the Tierra del Fuego. Flying in and out of that place was an experience. During the partnership time, an evangelistic team led by Paul Harrell, Brotherhood director, went down there for services.

Now Kelly has been instrumental in arranging a month-long partnership ministry with the Japanese Baptist Convention in October in observation of 100 years of Baptist work in that nation. Some 40 teams of Mississippi Baptists will participate in revivals during October.

In reflecting on Kelly's work, the relationship with the Baptist Record must not go unnoticed. It could not have been better. While the Baptist Record raises four-fifths of its budget through subscriptions and advertising, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has the financial responsibility for the Baptist Record as



budgets are prepared and administered. The convention constitution and the Convention Board policy manual, however, point out that the paper is to relate to the Baptist Record Advisory Committee, elected by the convention, in matters of content. It would be easy for an executive director who had the financial responsibility to extend his influence into content matters. Kelly never did — not

once. But he was always very supportive.

This should be much appreciated by all Mississippi Baptists. It certainly is appreciated by the Baptist Record.

So we bid farewell to him as a working partner, but we know we have not heard the last of him and his wife, Marjorie, as they move into a new phase of their ministry. We wish them Godspeed and the very best.

## The Chinese Students . . . Thirsting hearts

(Note: in the following article, names of persons and places, as well as dates, have been altered to protect individuals against reprisal; otherwise the article is entirely factual.)

By Charles Stevens

Part II of Two Parts

On October 1, 1984, all of China celebrated the 35th anniversary of the creation of the People's Republic, which Chairman Mao Tse-tung proclaimed from the monumental gate of the Forbidden City in 1949. On that morning in 1984, scores of westerners were bussed to Tian-an-men Square and given reserved spaces in the reviewing stands across and in front of the walls of the Forbidden City. Deng Shao Peng took his place where Mao had stood (in 1949), and the parade moved along Chang-an Boulevard for six hours. When we first arrived, I was overwhelmed by the mass of people in formation in the great square (all of the 500,000 paving stones have been assigned numbers;

and, on the morning of 1984, students and soldiers were in place — each on his designated paving stone). Every person in the formation had several colors of pompoms and that half-million mass of people, at signals given from somewhere, would use the pom-poms to form enormous and colorful designs — sometimes geometric, sometimes in the form of Chinese characters — across the square. Balloons were released by the thousands. That part of the parade which flowed along Chang-An Avenue, past the colorful formation standing in the square, was part civilian, part military — and consisted of perhaps another half-million people marching along. Huge formations of the soldiers marched in soft shoes; thousands of troops moved steadily along that broad street in eerie silence! The floats were sometimes a half-block in length; one had miniature mountains on it and a miniature Great Wall snaking across those mountains. (While this float was being constructed, 2,000 magpies — large black birds with white flashes underneath their wings — had been trained to nest and perch atop the miniature mountains; and, as the float moved along Changan

Avenue, two thousand magpies circled above it, sometimes alighting on it. Only in China!) That night, we westerners were carried back to Tian-an-men Square and, from the reviewing stands, watched two solid hours of bursting fireworks (the Chinese invented fireworks all those many centuries ago, and they outdid themselves in this October 1, 1984, display). (I have six rolls of 36-exposure slides that I took during the parade, and another roll for the fireworks!)

Another celebration of the October 1 anniversary was a banquet in the Great Hall of the People. The room was arranged with 100 round tables, each table with 10 chairs around it; and this banquet used only half the Hall! In some ways, the Chinese believe that "more is better" and "bigger is better."

Helen joined me in November. In my Literature class I was finishing up the unit on "Classical Backgrounds of Western Literature" and moving into a unit of "Biblical Backgrounds of Western Literature" — anticipating the Christmas season, which was approaching. On Tuesday, December 21, Helen and I took a cake from one of the western hotels, the students

brought cups and boiling water for making tea — we had a Christmas party in the classroom! When Helen and I got there the students had already used colored chalk to decorate the black board with Santa Claus, a tree, and a huge MERRY CHRISTMAS! We had brought some tape recordings of family singing from home; and, as we played the tapes, we taught the songs to the students. Some of the songs were secular ("Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," "Frosty, the Snow Man," "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," etc.) and many of them were sacred ("O, Little Town of Bethlehem," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," "Silent Night," and others). I opened the Bible and read from Luke the great Christmas Story. The Chairman of the English Department was there and enjoyed it as much as anybody. (He has since been teaching in the U.S. as an exchange professor. One of the exchange professors from China has made his profession of faith, has been baptized, and is now a member of one of the Baptist Churches here in the U.S. He will undoubtedly be in serious difficulty when he returns to China, for he is a member of the Communist Party; and according to the Communist requirements, he will have to renounce his Communist Party membership. Most Americans cannot realize the pressures that the Chinese people feel!)

One of the young men in my "Backgrounds of Western Literature" class was goodlooking, quiet, shy — his English name was Mike. I think he never spoke a word in class. About one week before Helen and I were to return to our home, Mike came softly into my office and closed the door behind him. He sat down at the end of my desk and began to recite: "Not marble nor the gilded monuments of princes shall outlive this powerful rhyme . . ." He had memorized the entire sonnet and quoted all 14 lines without a flaw, and with proper enunciation and interpretive expression. I was flabbergasted and sat silently when he finished. Then he went on: "You told us about the Greek hero, Ulysses, in Tennyson's poem, who wanted to continue to learn and who hoped to go on travelling to the ends of the earth." And then Mike, in soft syllables, proceeded to quote the last words of that poem — "TO STRIVE, TO SEEK, TO FIND, AND NOT TO YIELD!" After a pause he added, "I will remember those words to the end of my life."

As I watched the grotesque violence on television and read of the tragic death that stalks the streets of Beijing and Shanghai and other cities in China, I wonder where Mike is, and Robin, and Rudolph, and Merrilee, and Shirley, and Wayne. And again, I resort to prayer, for them and their families and friends, and for myself, and for us all.

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# Earl Kelly completes MBCB term of service

By Anne McWilliams

Last December, Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board since 1973, announced that he would retire August 15, 1989. That date is just around the corner.

Friday, July 28, according to Kelly's plans, will be his last day to work at the Baptist Building; after that his office will be occupied by his successor, Bill Causey. The first two weeks of August, which he had reserved as vacation time, he will spend in Yugoslavia. On Sunday, July 30, he and his wife, Marjorie, will leave for Zagreb, where he will meet with the Baptist World Alliance Council. He is currently a member of that council, serving on the Baptist World Alliance World Aid Committee.

In the statement to the Convention Board at the time he announced his retirement, Kelly said, "Following August 15, I look forward to ministry in other areas as he leads." In Oc-

tober, he and Mrs. Kelly will be among teams of Mississippi Baptists who will go to Japan to take part in revivals there, as Japanese churches celebrate the 100th anniversary of Baptist work in Japan.

Under Kelly's administration, Mississippi has earned the distinction of being number one in per capita Cooperative Program gifts. Said he, "For a state that usually ranks 50th in economy, that speaks well of the dedication of the Baptists who belong to our churches."

Receipts of the Convention Board for the past 16 years have totalled \$325,847,976, and \$124,642,827 has been given to SBC causes, or 38.3 percent of the total receipts.

In 1975 a new program was launched for the Board to assist associations in creating new missions and churches. This program has resulted in the creation of 75 new church/missions in 30 associations. At the end of 1974 there were 1,881 Mississippi Baptist churches. The number by June, 1989, had grown to 2,003. According to Kelly, "During the past 16 years nearly 250,000 people have been won to Christ

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Carol and Roy Clark

## The bullet stopped short, the ministry continues

By Tim Nicholas

The 45-caliber bullet that went through both of Roy Clark's hands and entered his brain, stopped one-sixteenth of an inch from the juncture of the jugulars in his cerebellum, according to Clark's wife Carol.

In other words, Clark, pastor of Lake Harbor Baptist Church in Brandon, came that close to dying. The accused assailant, James Hudgens, whose family Clark had been counseling, is still in jail on \$1 million bond.

Clark's wife was told back on May 24 when he was shot at his home that he would not make it. However, he's been out of the hospital three weeks now and the road to recovery looks promising.

When Clark opened his front door that May evening, the assailant immediately pointed his gun at Clark and fired. Clark threw up both hands and tried to dodge the bullet which went through his right hand, his left wrist, and lodged in his brain. The assailant ran and was caught later that evening.

Clark fell to the floor. He remembers the man shooting him, the

emergency team arriving and his being placed on the Lifestar helicopter for evacuation to the University Medical Center. He said Baptist Medical Center refused to take him.

But the next three weeks are a blank to Clark. Carol says that rehabilitation includes working on the short term memory loss. A portion of Clark's brain the size of a medium egg was removed and in mid-August doctors will attempt to determine the extent of damage. Carol says doctors believe Roy will get about 90 percent usage back in his hands.

But whatever damage was done, it hasn't stopped Clark's ministry or his preaching. He's been back in the pulpit for the past five Sundays now. Hubert Monk of Denver has been doing the evening services.

And if anything really good can be said to have come out of the shooting, it is that a lot of people have prayed and Clark has had new witnessing opportunities.

Carol Clark says she is thankful that a large number of Lake Harbor people

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The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Budget committee wrestles with needs versus income

Tim Nicholas

The budget committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board heard 1990 Cooperative Program budget requests from Mississippi Baptist Convention agencies totaling \$1.5 million more than the total income expected in 1988.

They also heard of a Mississippi Baptist Education Commission plan to "pursue a comprehensive study of the entire program and ministry of Christian higher education" in Mississippi.

The committee, chaired by Larry Otis, took action in only one area before adjournment from the seven-hour meeting in Jackson last week.

The group refused to act immediately on three requests from the MBC Education Commission concerning a partial remedy for William Carey College's financial woes. The request was to approve a gift of \$250,000 for William Carey College. That amount would be the first of six yearly installments to pay the principal on a \$1.5 million loan Carey trustees would seek for which Carey would pay interest. The group had no authority to give the money.

Authorization for another loan of \$2.5 million was requested to be guaranteed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

And the Education Commission also asked that the convention "forgive a \$325,000 encroachment by William Carey College on past FTE allocations." In the Education Commission's recent report, Carey was found to have inflated actual student numbers to increase Cooperative Program allocations.

The budget committee did vote to request an ad hoc committee of board members to seek out a meeting with Carey trustees and potential lenders from around the state. And the committee voted to meet again after such

a conference with lenders.

Carey interim President James Edwards, hearing of the failure to act immediately on the request, told the Baptist Record that for Carey, "I'm amenable to anything that will work that is appropriate legally and financially that will reduce the deficit and debt service." He added that the next steps will be from "the people who are supporting Carey including alumni and other constituents being heard in the process."

Edwards, asked by budget committee members what would happen if the school did not receive the \$250,000 now, said "We won't make payroll Aug. 15."

The Education Commission requested for its 1990 budget for the Mississippi Baptist institutions of higher learning a total of \$3,342,244 for operations and \$600,000 for capital needs, the same amount requested for 1989. And they requested a line item to be earmarked for Clarke College for \$55,095 for deficit reduction, and another \$60,000 operations grant.

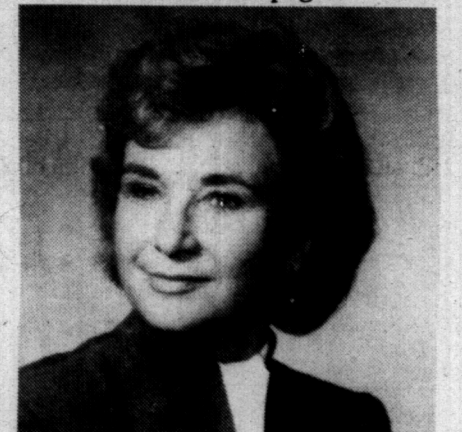
This was explained by Commission Chairman William Stewart to be the third year to aid a deficit reduction plan. The \$60,000 represents an amount equivalent to that denied Clarke College this year because of a loss of separate operations funding following its merger with Mississippi College.

The Education Commission has consistently voted not to return Clarke to separate status as a college and Mississippi College continues to request that separate funding status. At the 1989 Mississippi Baptist Convention, following an appeal by MC President Lewis Nobles, the convention voted 2-1 to give Clarke a \$200,000 line item, raising the convention budget by that amount plus an additional 37.5 percent of that amount which goes to

SBC Cooperative Program causes outside the state.

Other agencies' requests included \$157,430 from the Mississippi Baptist Foundation; \$153,892 from the Christian Action Commission; \$139,635 from the Board of Ministerial Education (Their budget calls for an additional \$3,125 for 1990 summer school grants and \$2,000 for emergency student aid to be paid from existing reserve funds.); \$396,000 from the Baptist Children's Village; \$34,407 from the Historical Commission; \$184,254 from the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (some of which would go toward nursing scholarships); and \$7,399,773 from the Mississippi Baptist

(Continued on page 4)



### WMU exec elected

Dellana West O'Brien, a former foreign missionary who is president of international Family and Children's Educational Services in Richmond, Va., has been elected executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. She succeeds Carolyn Weatherford who is retiring Sept. 1. She is married to Bill O'Brien, executive vice president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board. The Baptist Record will have details next week.

## Youth Night comes to Jackson on Aug. 4

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night will take place Aug. 4 at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson with Evangelist Jay Strack of Dallas, Tex., as guest speaker.

The program, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, begins at 6:40 with pre-program activities. The event begins at 7.

Music leader for the evening will be Al Denson of Dallas. And featured will be Dennis Lee and Danny, also of Dallas.

Purpose of the program is to provide Mississippi Baptist youths and their friends a contemporary worship celebration which both edifies

believers and reaches others for Christ.

Program chairman Graham Smith of the MBCB Church Music Department, said that two large screens will project stage images for better viewing throughout the coliseum and that the sound system has been enhanced to distribute sound more evenly.

Jackson radio station WHJT 93.5 FM will provide a live remote broadcast from the coliseum beginning at 5:30 with prizes to be given away. The station plans to broadcast some of the program itself, according to station promoter Kimberly Salter.



Strack

Denson



Dennis Lee and Danny



# Bush reportedly picks Pressler for top government ethics post

By Marv Knox

WASHINGTON (BP) — Paul Pressler, a Houston judge and vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, reportedly has been picked to direct the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

Pressler, a judge on Texas' 14th Court of Civil Appeals, is being considered by the Bush administration to direct the office, according to a July 20 report in the Houston Post.

If nominated and confirmed, Pressler would succeed Frank Nebeker, who has been appointed chief judge of the new U.S. Veterans' Court of Appeals.

Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention, attempted to contact Pressler, who was vacationing in Europe, but was unable to do so.

The Office of Government Ethics operates "the ethics program for the entire executive branch" of the federal government, Deputy Director Donald Campbell told Baptist Press.

Each executive-branch agency conducts its own ethics program, usually headed by a person from the general counsel's office in that agency, Campbell said. The Office of Government Ethics then gives advice to those ethics officials, he added.

For example, it helps to examine and maintain standards of conduct and watch for conflict of interest within the agencies, he explained. It also reviews the nomination statements of the presidential appointees that require Senate approval,

about 1,000 to 1,100 positions.

The office, which has 35 employees, also reviews the ethics programs in the agencies, looking for weaknesses and strengths, he said, giving "advice and guidance to the ethics officials."

The office can request agencies to conduct internal ethics investigations and, if they decline, advise the president, Campbell said.

And when "ethics matters of high-level officials in the executive branch" are involved, the office can conduct the investigation, buttressing the efforts of the agency's own ethics official, he added, citing the investigation of former Attorney General Edwin Meese as an example.

Legislation passed last year by Congress elevated the office — which now is under the Office of Personnel Management — to the status of an independent agency, effective Oct. 1, Campbell noted, adding: "Congress always has been concerned that the Office of Personnel Management not interfere with our actions. We assured them they did not."

Appointment to the ethics post involves "an extensive confirmation process," an aide to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs told Baptist Press.

The process includes an FBI background check, actual nomination of the candidate, written questioning by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, a hearing with the committee and votes by both the com-

mittee and the full Senate, the aide said.

Attempts by Baptist Press to confirm the nomination were unsuccessful.

Reached in Washington, Pressler's son-in-law, Les Csorba, said, "I really can't comment."

Pressler, 59, has been one of the architects of the conservative movement within the Southern Baptist Convention. Conservatives have won the SBC presidential elections — the key to controlling the selection of trustees of convention agencies and institutions — the past 11 years.

In 1984, Pressler was elected to the SBC Executive Committee, which acts on behalf of the convention between its annual meetings. Executive Committee members elected him to a one-year term as vice chairman this summer.

If nominated and confirmed, and if Pressler accepts the government post, his new status is not expected to affect his standing with the Executive Committee, observers noted.

Normally, when a person moves to a new state and changes church membership, the person gives up membership on the Executive Committee, which is allocated by states. However, when former Executive Committee member Alan Sears, then an attorney from Louisville, Ky., took an assignment with the Justice Department, he maintained his residence and church membership in Kentucky. Observers noted Pressler, a member of First Baptist Church of Houston, could function similarly.

A lifelong Democrat, Pressler shifted to the Republican Party in September 1988.

Pressler's daughter, Anne Csorba, works in the Office of Personnel Management's public affairs office. Her husband, formerly a member of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, works in the White House Personnel Office. Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## Budget group wrestles with

(Continued from page 3)

Convention Board, which includes \$800,000 for the expanded church annuity program helping fund church retirement accounts for ministers.

Total requests, including the special allocations for Clarke and Carey, would be \$20,532,728. Budget income estimates project 1989 Cooperative Program income at about \$19.1 million. The 1989 budget is \$20,103,541.

The Education Commission announcement concerning the study of Christian higher education noted that the study would "include the role, mission, purposes, financial support, and other relevant considerations relating to each individual institution and all of the institutions collectively. Findings, recommendations, and appropriate means of application will be given."

"The study will be done in the next convention year. Until the results of the study are known, the Education Commission does not recommend any changes in the existing funding formula for the colleges." Budget committee Chairman Otis suggested such a study be completed before the budget committee meets next year.

## WMU overnight at Garaywa, set for Aug. 11-12

WMU church leaders are invited to attend the WMU Overnight at Camp Garaywa, Aug. 11-12, states Ashley McCaleb, consultant, state WMU.



Clendinning

Keynote speaker for the Overnight is Mrs. Monte Clendinning, conference coordinator, World Mission and Evangelism Center, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex.

Friday evening Mrs. Clendinning will lead in a Bible study focusing on the 1989-90 WMU theme, "In His Name — Reach, Teach, Touch." She will also speak on Christian leadership and motivation.

The Saturday session is open to leaders who cannot attend the Overnight. It will follow the same format as the week days of training conferences, Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10. Age-level conferences will be offered for all leaders.

Chatting with missionaries, from 9:00-9:30 a.m., will include Diane P. Smith, furloughing missionary from Ivory Coast and former Acteens Consultant, and Ralph and Gena Calcote, retired from Japan.

The Calcotes will also share background on Japan, the 1989-90 Foreign Mission Study, with each conference. Conferees may wish to bring a camera.

For details on registration, contact the WMU office, or use the form in the WMU publication, alongside.

## FMB commissions 50 journeymen

RICHMOND, Va. — Fifty young men and women were commissioned as Southern Baptist journeymen July 16 at First Church, Richmond, Va.

Mississippians in the group are Jeff and Judy Smith of Jackson, who will go to Scotland; Laura Wright of Tupelo, who will go to Botswana; and Beth Raley of Taipei, Taiwan and Jackson (most recently employed as admissions counselor at Mississippi College), who will go to Asia.

They will work in more than 30 countries for the next two years, helping Southern Baptist career missionaries in school teaching, music, student ministries, clerical duties and communication projects.

The journeymen, all college graduates age 27 or younger, have completed five weeks of training at the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

- July 31-Aug. 4 Super Summer; Mississippi College, Clinton; 1 p.m., 31st-3 p.m., 4th (CT)
- Aug. 1-4 Basic & Advanced Certification Seminar for Church Secretaries; Baptist Building; 8 a.m., 1st-Noon, 4th (CAPM)
- Aug. 4 Youth Night; Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson; 6:30-9 p.m. (MBCB/PD)

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**YOUTH DIRECTORS —** Make reservations for your group at "All Night Skate" August 4 during Youth Night in Jackson. Lakeland Skating Center, (601) 932-5323.

**CHURCH COMPUTER SYSTEM:** Includes personal computer, printer, software and training. Call John Hardy (601) 323-6033.

**1988 PEAVY SIX channel PA mixer.** Call Tracy Dodd (601) 372-0148.

**HOUSEPARENTS NEEDED:** Mature married couple with no dependent children to work as houseparents in therapeutic group home setting with 12 adolescent boys 13-18 years. Good salary, good benefits and working conditions. Call for interview Monday-Friday at 601-798-2418 or 601-798-2437 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.; or for information on weekends or evenings (8 p.m.-9 p.m.). Write letter of interest to Houseparents, P. O. Drawer 640, Picayune, MS 39466.

**RELIEF HOUSEPARENT NEEDED:** Mature male to work relief/part-time as houseparent in group home setting with 12 boys 13-18 years. Call 601-798-2418 or 601-798-2437 and/or write letter of interest to Houseparents, P. O. Drawer 640, Picayune, MS 39466.

**HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH,** 3102 Monticello Drive, Jackson, MS is seeking Christian ladies to serve as part-time preschool workers, Sunday mornings and nights and Wednesday nights. Call 372-0132 for details.

PLAN NOW FOR

# Youth Night

**'89 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night in the Coliseum**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1989**

6:40 Pre-Program Activity  
7:00 Program Begins

Special Guests  
**JAY STRACK**  
**AL DENSON**  
**DENNIS LEE & DANNY**

A MINISTRY OF YOUR COOPERATIVE PROGRAM  
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD  
Earl Kelly, Executive Director  
Chester Vaughn, Program Director



# Revival dates

## Earl Kelly completes MBCB term of service

BAPTIST RECORD  
Thursday, July 27, 1989

**Bethany, Slate Springs (Calhoun):** July 30-Aug. 4; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Earl Ezell, pastor; Southside, Greenville, evangelist; Archie Goodwin, Anguilla, music; Bernette Fielder, pastor.

**Carrollton (Carroll):** July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; lunch at church each weekday; Carl Savell, pastor, Lakeshore, Jackson, evangelist; Mark Walker, minister of music, First, Winona, music; Leon Emery, interim pastor; Bernard Taylor, music director.

**New Zion, Liberty:** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday homecoming; Sunday school, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon, followed by evening service; Mon.-Wed. services 7 p.m.; evangelist, Bill Bozeman; Kenneth Dixon, music director; Douglas Moore, pastor.

**Macedonia (Lee):** July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Burt Harper, pastor; West Jackson Street, Tupelo, evangelist; Marion Payne, pastor.

**New Zion, Braxton:** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, dinner on the grounds and evening service; 7:30 nightly; Billy Thomas, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Gene Rester, Jackson, music; Scott Thomas, pastor.

**Rocky Creek, Lucedale:** July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri. at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; John Wilton, evangelist; Perry Robinson, music evangelist; Roy T. Myers, pastor; Ben W. Blackwell, minister of music and youth.

**Chester (Choctaw):** July 30-Aug. 4; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Everett Martin of Grenada, evangelist; Mark Courington of Pensacola, music director; Rob Faulk, pastor.

**Grandview, Pearl:** July 30-Aug. 3; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6:50 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs. at 7:30 p.m.; Ed Griffin, pastor of First, Ridgeland, evangelist; Richard Sullivan, minister of music at First, Flowood, music evangelist; Wade Chappell, pastor.

**Willow Grove (Covington):** July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.; noon meal following worship, Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Gene Douglas, Union South, Seminary, evangelist; Larry Raines, Freeway Manor, Houston, Texas, music; Billy Purser, pastor.

**Walker Hill (Rankin):** July 30-Aug. 3; Sunday at 11 a.m.; nightly at 7:30; Allen Stephens, First, Richland, evangelist; Richard Sparks, Puckett, music; Bernard Nail, pastor.

**New Good Hope, Pulaski:** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday at 10 a.m. with dinner on the grounds and afternoon service at 1:30; weeknights at 7:30; Tony Henry, evangelist; Danny Harrison, song leader; Paul Smith, pastor.

**Oak Grove, Noxapater:** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weeknights at 7:30; Charles Rook, pastor of Singleton, Louisville, evangelist; Janett Anthony, music leader; W.A. McPheeters, pastor.

**McLaurin, Hattiesburg:** July 30-Aug. 4; nightly at 7; Bill Nobles, evangelist; Bobbie Shurden, music director; homecoming is Aug. 6 with dinner on the grounds; John Mars, pastor.

**County Line (Attala):** July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday homecoming, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; lunch in the afternoon; Mon.-Wed. at 7:30 p.m.; Danny Dodds, evangelist; Welton Madden, music; Martin Williams, psator.

**Calvary, Columbus:** July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday morning services at 11 a.m. at 404 23rd Street; all other services at the new Dowdle Drive location; Sunday evening at 7 p.m.; weekdays at 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Steve Jackson of East End, Columbus, evangelist; Mark Barrett, minister of music and youth at Calvary, music director; Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.

(Continued from page 3)  
and baptized into the fellowship of one of these churches."

Since 1974, the Department of Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries, Department of Church Minister Relations and Annuity, Department of Broadcast Services, Department of Information Services, and the program director's office have been added to the departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Central Hills, camp for Royal Ambassadors, has been acquired. Following its destruction by Hurricane Camille, Gulfshore Assembly has been rebuilt. A second building program was completed there, and dedicated May 13, 1989.

Kelly initiated the Mississippi Mission endowment campaign which has to date generated \$47 million in pledges and gifts for three Mississippi Baptist colleges and the Children's Village.

Under his leadership a Mississippi partnership was arranged with Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina; this ended with revival crusades in which 5,000 people made professions of faith in Christ and two new churches were planted.

Kelly came to his position as executive director, MBCB, from the pastorate of Ridgecrest Church, Jackson. Before that, he had been pastor at First Church, Holly Springs.

He grew up in the Cherry Creek Church, Pontotoc County, which J. B. Gambrell, first executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, had also claimed as his home church. Kelly's mother, 98, is still a member of Cherry Creek Church and lives near Ecru.

During his tenure, his wife, Amanda, died, and he married Marjorie Rowden, widow of Paul Rowden, former missionary to Israel. He has two sons, Dana and Brian, and a daughter, Kay.

Concerning his future plans, Kelly told the Baptist Record: "When I responded to what I perceived to be a divine assignment to the Christian ministry at age 17, I asked my Lord to use me where He knew my gifts would mesh with needs. I have been utterly amazed by the way He has answered that prayer of commitment. Each assignment has been uniquely different, yet progressively demanding — six years as a rural pastor, 13 years as a pastor of a county seat town church, six years as pastor of a metropolitan church, and 16 years as executive director-treasurer of the Convention Board. In each situation He has affirmed my role by placing around me committed people who made things work. To that vast host of lay people and the dedicated, trained staff with whom I have had the privilege of working, I shall always be grateful.

"Now, at this point, I have said,

## Bolton reception to honor Burkes

Bolton Church will hold a reception on Sunday afternoon, July 30, for its pastor, Wayne Burkes, and his wife, Ruthine. Burkes is retiring from the active pastorate, having served for 24 years. He is state highway commissioner.

The reception will be held in Ross Annex of the Bolton Church at Bolton from 3 until 5 p.m.

"Lord, what now?" To the amazement of Marjorie and me, the Lord seems to be opening so many doors of service that we already see the best is yet to come. "Thank you Lord, and thank you dear people!"

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(Co-sponsored by Mississippi Baptists and the Foreign Mission Board)



# Miss



**Jan. 1, 1989-June 30, 1989**

Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All				Assn. Miss. Designated, WMU & All			
Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total		Co-op	Other	Total	
ANCHOR	2,169.00	1,721.00	3,890.00	ANCHOR	750.00	389.13	1,139.13	ANCHOR	586.00	289.71	875.71	ANCHOR	6,529.34	5,963.10	12,492.44
ANCHOR	13,402.00	1,144.00	14,546.00	ANCHOR	2,042.00	1,042.00	3,084.00	ANCHOR	1,311.31	2,789.71	4,101.02	ANCHOR	3,171.73	3,300.57	6,472.30
ANCHOR	6,669.25	7,179.45	13,848.70	ANCHOR	1,114.27	1,042.00	2,156.27	ANCHOR	2,800.84	1,380.44	4,181.28	ANCHOR	19,071.04	20,633.37	39,704.41
ANCHOR	6,669.25	7,179.45	13,848.70	ANCHOR	1,114.27	1,042.00	2,156.27	ANCHOR	4,311.31	4,442.00	8,753.31	ANCHOR	2,533.35	2,567.89	5,101.24
ANCHOR	6,669.25	7,179.45	13,848.70	ANCHOR	1,114.27	1,042.00	2,156.27	ANCHOR	2,800.84	1,380.44	4,181.28	ANCHOR	3,171.73	3,300.57	6,472.30
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**Glorieta Baptist  
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(505) 757-6162**



# Letters From Carey

BY JIM EDWARDS  
Interim President

"... I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 NAS

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE?

An Institutional Crisis? YES!!

Will We Be Open This Fall? YES!! DEFINITELY!

At All Campuses and Locations? YES!!

Will We Survive Long-Term? YES, AND BE STRONGER!!

Will It Be Difficult In The Short-Term? YES, VERY DIFFICULT!!

Do We Need Help? YES. FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE!

What Kind of People? PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN THE GOOD WORK WE HAVE DONE, ESPECIALLY ALUMNI, PASTORS, AND OTHER FRIENDS.

Several weeks ago I decided that it would be a good idea to communicate openly and regularly to all Mississippi Baptists and other friends of William Carey College. Why? That's part of the crisis we are in — lack of timely and open communication. "Letters from Carey" over the next several weeks will help correct that as I address concerns about the College and profile some of the people who provide leadership in our learning and faith endeavors.

As I have approached this first letter, what I have wanted to say has been clear. How to say things has been less clear. How finally occurred to me in a recent evening worship service in my home church in Jackson, Tennessee. My wife 'Gene and I were there attending and proudly watching our 15-year old daughter Allison participate in a musical drama entitled "POSITIVE I.D." Her youth group had just returned from performing for a week in Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. Titles of some of the songs were:

"SPEAK THE TRUTH" "UNCOMMONLY GOOD" "KEEP IN TOUCH" "COMPASSION"  
My mind said — that's it. Letter number one from William Carey College: POSITIVE I.D.!!

The musical Allison was in emphasized how God works through Christ to make us more than we could otherwise be without Him. The songs were about how young people can grow spiritually, intellectually, and relationally with others — by having a positive love for Christ. Does William Carey College have reasons to have a Positive I.D. in its mission to serve Mississippi young people?

Yes, but those reasons have recently been lost sight of as people have chosen to focus on the reality of the negatives, rather than the reality of the positives. Let's look at some of both realities — and hopefully learn from them.

"SPEAK THE TRUTH"

There are some people who believe representatives of William Carey have not been totally accurate and open in our past relations with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and other important supporters. The Special Study Report released last week include some findings in that regard. FTE inflation resulted in monetary gains to the College. Financial statements were issued by the College that in retrospect were overly optimistic. Faith was broken with some donors. However, we are now speaking the truth — even when it hurts — on those and other matters. We will continue to do so.

One of the issues that concerns me about the emphasis in recent months on a greater need for truthfulness, and especially now with the release of the Special Study Report, is that we have not spoken the truth about the positive events and activities at William Carey. Many people including a lot of Mississippi Baptists generally have lost sight of the high quality teaching and student learning that happens daily at William Carey College. That teaching and learning happens in a Christian environment, supported through a Baptist commitment to diversity in terms of methodology and emphasis on how we do it.

Give us some examples, you say? Where are we missing the truth?

Dr. Bennie Crockett is an example. He speaks The Truth in Religion and Philosophy courses. Bennie also strengthens the mind and spirit of our students as they seek to understand The Truth about God in their learning and faith experiences at Carey College.

**BENNIE CROCKETT**, Associate Professor of Religion and Chairman of the Division of Humanities.

B.A. — Mississippi College  
M. Div. & Th.D. — New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Has completed 4 years of service at Carey.

Dr. Crockett was the recipient of an award this year from the Legislature and Governor Mabus for excellence in teaching in the State of Mississippi. He is also one of our strong young leaders at William Carey and represents part of the future good work we believe is ahead for our College as God continues to perfect us. The next time you see Bennie, tell him that you appreciate him and have confidence in his leadership. Better yet, write us a letter or tell someone else who is negative about William Carey College.

**JOSEPHINE D'ARPA**, Associate Professor in the Winters School of Music

B.M. Church Music/Music Education — William Carey College  
Master of Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Has completed 24 years of service at Carey.

"UNCOMMONLY GOOD"

When people are shocked and angered and disappointed with circumstances, they initially react negatively. Those kinds of reactions are happening at William Carey College toward some of the decisions of past leadership. Given some of the things that have happened, the reactions are very, very understandable and at least partially justified. However, we are now at the point in time where we are again faced with the choice — do we wallow in the negativity of our feelings, or acknowledge and learn from them and move on to the positive and good that happens every day at William Carey?

Josephine D'Arpa is one of the uncommonly good faculty members who has devoted her entire music teaching ministry career to William Carey College and the Winters School of Music. As an undergraduate student at Carey over 30 years ago, Josephine got the same kind of excellent one-to-one instruction and tutoring that she has given back to hundreds of students at her alma mater over the last 24 years. In the accompanying picture, Cassandra Coleman from Ellisville is showing the same kind of interest and enthusiasm as our Winters School alumni have demonstrated over the years. Many of those alums have made the reputation of the Winters School one of the strongest in Baptist life.

If you are one of our alumni or beneficiaries from their direction of your church choir or a community concert or whatever, write to Josephine D'Arpa or Gene Winters or someone else here at Carey and let us know you appreciate them.

Music at Carey — uncommonly good? YES! Positive I.D.? YES!

"KEEP IN TOUCH"

Has the Carey Trustee Board and administration kept in touch over the years with its broad base of alumni and church constituency? Have all the Trustees and College administration kept in touch and worked effectively with each other? Many people believe the answers to these questions are No. I agree, but it was a concerned group of Trustees that forced the problems to be addressed by the Education Commission and the Convention.

On the other hand, has the MBC through its checks and balances system kept the College from sinking further into a debt structure that deteriorating operations could probably not support? Has there been an insistence at the Convention level that Trustees know how or be trained how to be directors of a complex legal entity called a Christian college? Many people believe the answers to these questions are No. I agree.

Are Trustees, administrators, and Convention leaders now "in touch" and working effectively together? Have we all agreed on the nature and depth of the problems particularly the excessive deficits and debt service? Have we identified appropriate financially prudent alternative solutions? Many people believe these answers are, "It's much better, but we are still working on it." I agree, and that is the Baptist way and process.

The newly announced Denominational Advisory Council for William Carey College will under the leadership of Dr. Frank Gunn help start a process of reaffirming and strengthening our church-related ties. Pray that others will step forward to assist us at this crucial time and provide leadership for Christian education in Mississippi.

There are many ways to prudently solve the short- and long-term financial problems at William Carey College. The plan recommended recently by the Education Commission and the College Trustees is only one way. Other sound alternatives will be explored. The major danger for the College and the Convention is that we'll settle for a "band-aid" approach which would result in keeping us coming back every few years without solving the deficit and debt service problems. Pray and hope for a consensus that really solves the problem. That is the type of positive approach that must emerge to ultimately save William Carey College.

"COMPASSION"

As the College and all Mississippi Baptists approach the new academic year, we have another choice that involves positives and negatives.

There are positive solutions for strengthening and helping William Carey College continue to become the good work God has been perfecting for years. Many Christian institutions, including other Baptist colleges, have been worse off than Carey and are now strong and sound again. Those results have occurred when there was a collective will to move forward in a financially responsible way and quickly put the negatives of condemnation, blame finding, and judgment behind. It takes the positiveness of compassion to put the negativity of condemnation aside but positive compassion can move us forward if we believe. The Truth of Philippians 1:6. We all believe. Do you? If so, let us hear from you. Soon. P.S. Next week. Carey On The Coast. Dorman Laird and Iris Easterling.





# Leviticus: laws concerning worship and redemption

By R. Raymond Lloyd

Leviticus 21:1-25:55

The holiness of priests (21:1-24)

Continuing our study of the Holiness Code, our text today first confronts us with the high



Lloyd

standards set for priests, even a higher standard than for the ordinary Israelite. The priest in ancient Israel, or the minister in today's church must be a role model of holiness. Just as the offering was to be an animal "without blemish," so must the offerer. It is not sufficient to preach from a Holy Bible and declare holy truths, the clergy must be the "holy man of God," and all that that implies, if he is going to lead people to a holy God.

The holiness of offerings (22:1-33)

The first 16 verses continue the same thought as chapter 21. Remember chapter divisions came much later than the original texts. The primary function of the priest was to officiate at the altar offering the sacrifices of the people. He was to guard seriously his own holiness by avoiding any uncleanness in the sacrificial gift.

The emphasis then focuses on the nature of the offering. Two kinds of offerings are described: "vows" and "freewill." A "vow" was one given in fulfillment of a promise, or pledge; a "freewill offering" was one spontaneously

## BIBLE BOOK

given. Surely one would not give less than he promises. The text anticipates that the worshiper gives more. Whatever the offering, it is to be without "blemish" (vs. 19-20). A blemish offering is unacceptable to God (vs. 20, 23, 25). Our gifts are to be "holy" — different — our best!

The holiness of convocations 23:2, 3

Here we are introduced to a list of "appointed feasts" and "holy convocations." They are called "holy convocations": "holy" because they involved the worship of the holy God and such was an aid in keeping Israel "holy even as I am holy;" "convocations" because it was a time the people were "called together" to celebrate the goodness and grace of God.

It is certainly implied in the meaning of the term that if one is to keep the Sabbath properly, it must be observed in a congregational form with family, neighbors, and friends. Sabbath literally means "to stop" — the idea of stopping work, a rest (vs. 3). Likewise it is a "calling together" (vss. 2, 3), a celebration of the communal worship of God. How far we have strayed from the fundamental concept of the Sabbath! As a people who believe in the resurrection should we not make our Sundays days of "rest" and congregational worship and praise?

Lest one should take the last phrase of vs. 3, "in all your dwellings," to mean that home worship is a substitute for "church," let us be reminded that most of the congregation of Israel lived a long way from the temple in Jerusalem, and an every Sabbath appearance was impossible, so the emphasis here is on keeping the festival in the home. We would do well to have our "house worship" with regularity, but all of us have a church within a few minutes drive where we ought to celebrate God's goodness with fellow believers weekly! The holiness years — the Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee (25:3-4; 20-23; 35-28.)

The key phrases to the understanding of both these ideas are found in vss. 2 and 23. While it may appear that Israel can do what she wants with the gift of land, God reminds those that become greedy and forcibly buy up the land, "the land is mine; for you are strangers and sojourners with me." The simple meaning here is that God shares his land with us; and we should use it not just for our gain and greed, but for his glory.

G.A.F. Knight points out that if the land belongs to God, man dare not exhaust its resources, turn it into a dust-bowl or a treeless desert. Just like man needs a Sabbath to rest and recuperate, so also does the land. The land will provide plenty of food if it experiences a Sabbath. Are we today to let the land lie fallow every seventh year? The farmer has learned the truth of this text, and through the rotation

of crops, balanced fertilization, and organic methodology, the truth can be appropriately fulfilled.

The idea of a Sabbatical is often used in educational institutions to give a professor an opportunity for rest and recuperation through study. Would it not be well for the church to consider offering such to its pastor, who may well work 60-80 hours a week? The well does run dry. While it may not be practical in most situations to provide a full year every seven years, how about three to six months? It might also be an inducement for longer pastorates, and the "dry" preacher might become fresh and productive again!

The Jubilee Year (from the word meaning "ram's horn," which was the trumpet blown to signal the people that the joyous festival was about to begin) was held the year following seven Sabbatical years (every 50th year). The fundamental purposes of the Year of Jubilee was to prevent the accumulation of large estates by the rich at the expense of the poor, a recognizing that the land rightly belongs to God.

The basic concept is that people come before property, and in vss. 35-38 this is specifically demonstrated. If a stranger has fallen on hard times, take care of him. Money is only a means to feed and clothe your family and show compassion to the unfortunate. God has treated us needy persons kindly; we should do likewise if we are going to be different — a holy people!

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

## Choose trustworthy people as leaders

By Billy R. Williams

Judges 9:1-15

The world was shocked when in November, 1978, cult leader Jim Jones decided it was time for his entire "family" to die, and 911 people



Williams

committed suicide or were murdered in Jonestown, Guyana. This terrible event was an extreme illustration of what happens when people follow the wrong leader. The focal passage for the week likewise sets forth the need for people to choose carefully and prayerfully those who would be their leaders.

The desire to lead is not of itself wrong but when that desire is fueled by selfish ambitions, and achieved by unethical means, the results can be disastrous. The extent to which one man will go to become leader is graphically described in verses 1-6 in Abimelech's attempt to become king.

Abimelech, Gideon's son, sought to gain by intrigue and violence the kingdom that Gideon (also called Jerubbaal) rejected (8:22, 23).

## UNIFORM

Abimelech was motivated in his quest by his own personal ambition and, possibly, a jealous hatred of his 70 half-brothers, who probably regarded him as inferior since he was born of Gideon's concubine (verse 18). Abimelech enlisted the help of his mother's family in Shechem, who some scholars have suggested were Canaanites. They readily accepted Abimelech's argument that it would be better to have one man rather than 70 ruling over them, especially if the leader were one of them (verse 3).

The people of Shechem joined in support of Abimelech by giving him 70 pieces of silver from their Baal sanctuary. By means of this silver, worthless men were hired to help Abimelech rid himself of all other possible rivals for the throne (verse 4). It is worth noting that nowhere in the scripture is it suggested that his brothers actually desired the kingship. Selfish ambition and jealousy have a way of blinding one to the truth and making enemies out of friends. When all of the brothers, except Gideon's youngest son Jotham, were put to death execution style

(verse 5), Abimelech was the crowned king of the north central section of Canaan by the men of Schehem and Millo (probably a neighboring town). While people today seldom go to such extremes as Abimelech did to gain their desires within the church, some people engage in unscrupulous methods to defeat their rivals. Christians would be wise to reject as leaders those whose motives are obviously selfish and whose methods towards rivals are unChrist-like.

Whether in a nation or in a church, it is imperative that trustworthy people be chosen as leaders. Failure to do so can lead to dire consequences as emphasized in verses 7-15, where Jotham upon hearing of Abimelech's selection as king delivers a message to the people of Shechem from Mt. Gerizim.

The message is in the form of a parable intended to censure the men of Shechem, weaken the power of Abimelech, and forecast the doom of his kingdom. According to the story, the trees desired a king to rule over them. Three qualified candidates were approached — the olive tree, the fig tree, and the grapevine. However, all three were content to remain as they were: the olive tree being useful in wor-

ship to God and beneficial to people; the fig tree providing food and sweetness; and the vine producing wine and juice.

These three represented worthy Gideon, who refused to accept the kingship because to him God was Israel's sovereign. The bramble or thistle, the least desirable, was finally chosen. The thorny bramble, giving little shade and encroaching on other plants, was representative of the arrogant and boastful Abimelech. Also the bramble was flammable and could easily destroy an entire forest (verse 15). These characteristics certainly described Abimelech and were emphasized in Jotham's application of the parable in verses 16-20. This prophecy of destruction was fulfilled in verses 23-57 where Abimelech and the citizens of Shechem and Millo destroyed each other.

With God's help, Christians need to find the most qualified people as leaders. These leaders are to be people who are motivated by a loving spirit and a concerned heart. Those people who possess leadership quality should remember that if they do not make themselves available, others who are less qualified or not qualified at all will be called upon to serve.

Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

## "Longing for God"

Randall L. VonKanel

Psalms 63:1-8; 84:1-2, 5-7

At the recent Southern Baptist Convention in Las Vegas, I had my first encounter with dry desert heat. With temperatures staying over the



VonKanel

100 degree mark during the day, consuming liquids was not just a matter of desire, but of necessity. The thirst would make me long for the refreshment of a cool drink of water. In this lesson, we are reminded of a spiritual thirst for the presence of God. Our longing for God leads us to a close relationship

with him. This session is the first in a series of lessons on developing our relationship to God.

Both Psalm 63 and Psalm 84 are indicative of our need for an intimate walk with the Lord. The psalmists longed for God's presence and the place of worship. Whether the result of sin or the plight of a distant pilgrim, being away from the manifest presence of God causes a

## LIFE AND WORK

thirst in the human heart. A right relationship to God has its beginning in an intense longing for Him.

In Psalm 63, David yearns for God and for a return to the sanctuary. In verses 1-2, the idea of thirst has reference to David's sojourn in the desert during the time of Absalom's brief reign over Israel (2 Samuel 15:13-23). The setting of dryness and dire thirst provided the psalmist a vivid picture of a greater thirst — a thirst for God. How David longed for the invigorating experience of worship! Having experienced the "power and glory" of God's presence in days past (v. 2), his desire for God was all the more intensified. Christians have those dry moments when we also long for the refreshing rains of personal revival — when we stand in the presence of the our holy God.

As he thought on the previous worship moments in the Temple, David responded with a commitment to praise God forever (vv. 3-4).

"So I will bless thee as long as I live" is the translation of verse 4a. Billy K. Smith contends that the verse could be rendered, "So I will bless you with (in, by) my life." David promised to live out his praise in response to the "steadfast love" of God. In a time of longing after God, David recalled God's love and goodness. His worship of God was not limited to the sanctuary. God calls us to praise him with our lives. Even though far from the Temple, isolated in the desert wilderness, David could voice his praise in remembrance of God's help and strength (vv. 5-8).

In Psalm 84, the psalmist captures the feelings of a pilgrim journeying to the Temple. In verses 1-2, he paints with poetry one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible in describing the longing of the soul for the God who is alive. The first verse could be understood as an exclamation of wonder at the anticipated beauty of the Temple. The second verse sets forth the psalmist's deep longing for the "courts of the Lord." The use of the parallelism (v. 2) identifies the desire as being more than a quest for the aesthetic qualities of a building. The psalmist equated the "courts of the Lord" with

the presence of "the living God." The place of worship was a place to worship the Lord. David wrote in Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." The heart thirsty for God eagerly comes to the house of the Lord. Christians, do we so anticipate the presence of the Lord when we come to church on Sunday? We should approach with joy our places of worship, knowing that we will meet with God in a special way!

In the final passage of our focal text (84:5-7), the psalmist reckoned that his strength for the journey was to be found in God. As pilgrims enduring the hardships of life's journey, God is abundantly sufficient to supply our every need. Literally, we live from "strength to strength," facing each new challenge with a measure of God's grace.

Do you long for the presence of the Lord? Are you thirsty for the things of God? Jesus said, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Developing our relationship with God begins with a thirst for the living Lord Jesus.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children  
Licensed by the State of Mississippi

## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Mar. 9, 1989 -  
May 19, 1989

### MEMORIALS

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## School Bells Are Ringing Again!



Representative children and staff from The New Albany Group Home (New Albany), Farrow Manor (Independence), Reedy Acres (Water Valley), Dickerson Place (Brookhaven) and Deanash (Bond-Wiggins) joined with those on The India Nunnery Campus in a great celebration of worship and recreation on July 4.

THE CHILDREN'S MINDS WERE FAR FROM THE CLASSROOM THAT DAY BUT VILLAGE STAFF WERE THINKING AHEAD ABOUT SCHOOL NEEDS!

- \* Transportation vehicles had to be examined — tires, hoses, batteries, oil, coolant, etc.
- \* Each child had to have proper immunizations
- \* Physical check ups and dental needs have to be on the agenda
- \* Practical needs — clothing, supplies, etc. — must be met.
- \* Each child's records have to be in order

## PREPARATION FOR SCHOOLS DEMANDS MONEY REMINDER LETTERS TO FRIENDS OF "MISSISSIPPI'S LARGEST FAMILY"

Were mailed from the Clinton Post office Monday, July 24, 1989. If for some reason you are not on our mailing list, accept this communication as an humble request for financial help.

### MAIL YOUR BACK TO SCHOOL GIFT TODAY

The Baptist Children's Village  
Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director  
P. O. Box 27  
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To be continued



# HMB staff minister during urban training

By Mark Wingfield

SAN FRANCISCO (BP) — The man sprawled in the gutter, head resting on the curb and feet stretched into the street. Bright red blood oozed from multiple wounds on his dirty face, the result of being beaten by a fellow street person.

Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, stooped at the curb to assess the man's condition. Lewis took the man's left hand between his own hands and began to calm him, while someone called for an ambulance.

As the man lay groaning, disoriented by the blows and dazed by drunkenness, he had no idea who was reaching out to help him. Lewis stumbled onto the stranger while walking through downtown San Francisco during a Home Mission Board urban training event.

The five-day trek was planned as a hands-on look at ministry in America's cities. However, the stop was not on the schedule.

Karl Ortis, director of missions for San Francisco Peninsula Baptist Association, joined Lewis in assisting the man, a Sioux Indian who lived in a tent village across from City Hall.

Seeing the efforts of Lewis and Ortis, another passerby stopped to help.

He is an unemployed nurse, unable to work because he is dying of AIDS. Lewis and Ortis held the injured man up while the nurse coaxed him to drink a cup of water.

While waiting for help to arrive, Lewis talked with the injured man, who dribbled saliva and blood every time he opened his mouth. With bare hands, Lewis held a napkin up to wipe away the fluid each time.

People passing on the sidewalk uttered disgust over the situation, proclaiming their dislike for the street people and the burden they caused society.

When the paramedics arrived, covered with long sleeves and rubber gloves to prevent possible contamination from AIDS, Lewis and Ortis stayed by the man. They offered comforting words about God's love, realizing the man was in no condition to understand an evangelistic witness.

Before the paramedics took the man away, Lewis wrapped his arm around the man's shoulder and the man reached out his arm around Lewis. Lewis hugged him and prayed with him, then placed a gospel tract

in the man's pocket for him to find later.

Meanwhile, inside the Burger King, the nurse had ordered a hamburger and fries and sat down next to Bob and Barbara Wiley. Wiley, HMB director of associational missions, also participated in the urban training event.

The man asked Wiley about Lewis and the group he was with. When Wiley explained he was a Christian, the man became defensive and attempted to shock Wiley.

"I'm gay and I've been diagnosed with AIDS," the man said.

"I'm sorry to hear that. I have a nephew who also is dying with AIDS," Wiley calmly replied.

"May I pray for you before we leave?" Wiley asked. "If you'll let me hug you," the man replied. Wiley prayed briefly for the man's physical and spiritual condition and then the two embraced in a warm, brotherly hug.

These unexpected encounters were just part of the five-day "plunge" into San Francisco by HMB personnel and students from Golden Gate Seminary. Planned opportunities for observation and participation included feeding the homeless, visiting a variety of churches, walking the streets of the inner city, and observing the city's annual Gay Parade.

Conference coordinator Larry Rose said the annual event puts students and missions leaders in touch with the realities of urban ministry.

Mark Wingfield writes for the HMB.

## Open winner open about his faith

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (EP) — Tennis standout Michael Chang, who upset Sweden's Stefan Edberg to become the youngest Grand Slam event winner and the first U.S. winner of the French Open since 1955, attributes his success to the Christian faith.

Discussing his French Open win, Chang said, "Every time I bring it up I see the pens and heads dropping. I know people are getting sick of it a little, but if I really want to tell the truth, it is Jesus Christ. I give him all the credit for all the things that happen in my life."



Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, prays with a homeless man who had been beaten and left bleeding in the gutter of a downtown San Francisco street. Lewis encountered the man during a Home Mission Board urban training event designed to put missions leaders in touch with the realities of urban ministry. Lewis and Karl Ortis, the local director of associational missions, cleaned the man's wounds and assisted him until paramedics arrived. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)



## 1989 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly summer staff

Pictured are members of the 1989 summer staff of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. These young people, representing 20 college campuses from across Mississippi, assisted in providing the services necessary for the operation of Mississippi Baptists' conference facility. Summer attendance will be approximately 7,000 persons for the 22 conferences sponsored by the various departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager. FRONT ROW: (left to right) Stephanie Morris, Columbia, Jones; Kim Gray, Stringer, DSU; Nancy Greenhaw, Amory, NECC; Karon Robertson, Raleigh, Jones; Missy Donald, Picayune, USM; Tina Stokes, Union, MSU; Stacy Herrington, Laurel, Jones; Leigh Ann Gordon, Houston, ICC; Stacey Henley, Picayune, USM; Sandy Leeper, Pontotoc, MUW; Lisa Hatcher, Louisville, East Central; Stacy O'Quinn, Tylertown, Wm. Carey; Lisa Parkman, Jackson, Hinds; Angie Turner, Mathiston, MSU; SECOND ROW: Colleen McGee, Meridian, USM; Tonya Mays, Fort Worth, houseparent; Ronda Hensarling, Petal, Carey; Mel Peterson, Gautier, MSU; Kimberly Oglesbee, Bay St. Louis, MSU; Kim Bridges, Birmingham, AL.; Samford; Evy Ferguson, Hernando, BMC; Mitzi Gann, Potts Camp, NECC; Amy Thorn-

ton, Bay Springs, Jones; Leanne MacInnis, Pass Christian, USM; Susan Mathis, Collins, Jones; Jeff Morris, Columbia, MC; Brent Richardson, Kosciusko, MSU; Janie Vandiver, Tupelo, Carey; Dawn Brand, Meridian, MCC; Chris Conn, Crystal Springs, MSU; Doug Walker, Prentiss, MSU; Tawana Posey, Brookhaven, Co-Lin; Allen Hendrix, Pineville, LA, NW LA; THIRD ROW: Blane Mays, Fort Worth, TX, houseparent; Ronnie Sleeper, Corinth, MSU; Janet Houston, Fort Worth, TX, SWBTS; Jim McCown, Brandon, Hinds; Greg, Abernathy, Southaven, NWCC; Scott Cappleman, Jackson, Hinds; Kay Patterson, Gore Springs, MSU; Greg Lively, Brandon, Hinds; Paula Haley, Goodman, MSU; Rob Ray, Oxford, NWCC; Joey Little, Star, MC; Frank Simmons, Long Beach, manager, GBA; Shan Martin, Canton, Holmes; Don Loflin, Yazoo City, Ole Miss; Troy Hight, Philadelphia, East Central; Bret Prather, Canton, Holmes; Ben Mitchell, Duck Hill, Ole Miss; Tom Slade, VanCleave, MSU; Gary Woods, Long Beach; Bret Turner, Long Beach, USM. Not pictured are Johnny Beaver, Forest, East Central; Suzanne Brewer, Gulfport, MSU; Cindy Hutcherson, Gulfport.

# Cornerstone Commission, FMB, Mexicans to cooperate

By Eric Miller

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Leaders of the Houston-based Cornerstone Commission, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the National Baptist Convention of Mexico announced they have reached an agreement to work together.

The Cornerstone Commission, a church-starting agency formerly known as the Genesis Commission, wants to help start 5,000 churches in Mexico within 10 years at a cost of \$25 million, Executive Director Paul Ferguson said in an interview.

Cornerstone receives financial contributions from Christian businessmen from a variety of denominations, Ferguson said. So far, the commission has enough money for the next three years, he added.

Don Kammerdiener, FMB vice president for the Americas, noted five key areas of cooperation outlined in the agreement between Cornerstone, the mission board and Mexican Baptists: the Mexican Baptist convention's acknowledgment of the Cornerstone program, use of Mexican convention financial channels for Cornerstone aid, Mexican Baptist involvement in selecting new church sites and sponsoring churches, commitment of Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico to help churches aided by Cornerstone the same way they assist other churches and evaluation of results.

The commission also will send volunteers, mostly high school and college groups, to Mexico through the Foreign Mission Board's volunteers in missions department. Volunteers will help build churches, show evangelistic films, lead Bible schools, and spread the gospel door to door.

The Cornerstone Commission is the brainchild of Randy Best, a Texas entrepreneur. While on a visit to Africa, Best was impressed to thank God for his wealth and seek guidance in how

to use it, said Ed Young, a Cornerstone trustee and pastor of Houston's Second Baptist Church, where Best is a member.

Best pays all administrative costs of Cornerstone, which has a small staff, so all donations go straight to the mission field, Young said.

It began in 1986 as the Genesis Commission. By early 1988, Mexican Baptist leaders had announced they would not support the work of the Genesis Commission because it refused to work through the Mexican convention.

Bill Darnell, a Southern Baptist minister, later resigned as the commission's executive director, and commission leaders changed the agency's name to the Cornerstone Commission. Darnell was replaced by Ferguson, 56, a senior Texas district court judge and former chief of staff at Second Baptist in Houston.

Early on, the commission was swept into the Southern Baptist Convention's political controversy, Kammerdiener recalled. The commission "became identified as setting up an alternative foreign mission board and representing the extreme right wing of our convention," he said. No one was more surprised than Best, who at the time was a new Southern Baptist with little understanding of the controversy, Kammerdiener and Young said.

Cornerstone leaders approached the Foreign Mission Board in January 1989 about working together in Mexico. Representatives of the two agencies, as well as Mexican Baptist leaders, met in February and reached a tentative agreement. Mexican leaders gave final approval May 18.

Cornerstone's "only vision is to start churches," Ferguson said. "We don't plan to send missionaries; we just plan to start churches."

A three-year funding of \$5,000 covers a pastor's salary and

literature. Near the end of the three years of support, Cornerstone withholds funds for six months to encourage the church to become self-supporting. Later, the commission gives the church the rest of the funds.

Established Mexican Baptist churches will nominate all new pastors and decide on church sites, and Cornerstone will see that new pastors undergo "a very intensive pastors' training course," Ferguson said.

The commission began work in Mexico in the fall of 1987 and started 10 churches then. It started another 50 in 1988, Ferguson said, adding that each new church after two years of stability is chattered each year.

new church

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